

**VOL 3 - ISSUE 11 THE ATARI FEDERATION**  
**2 November 1987**

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**MEETINGS:**

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the VAFB Federal Credit Union, Vandenberg Village, California.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Membership in The Atari Federation is open to all persons interested in the Atari personal computer. Dues are \$10.00 per calendar year (\$15.00 per family) and are collected on the member's anniversary date. Membership includes a subscription to this newsletter and access to The Federation's library of public domain software.

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**THE ATARI FEDERATION**

**P.O. Box 5367**

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By: Shirl A. Dellinger

Elections are over and your club has some new people taking over the reins. We also are welcoming back a few other's. For those of you that were not at the last meeting, please see the Secretaries Report, else where in this newsletter for a full list of your new officers. I hope that all of you will take a few moments and welcome your officers to their posts. Congratulations and may all of you have a great year.

I would also like to congratulate Steve Ramm, (President of the S.M.L.A.C.E user group), and a member of the Federation for solving the Hacker's Challenge. Way to go Steve!!! Plus we can't forget to thank Paul Alhart for creating the Challenge for all of us to lose sleep over! I for one am ready for the next challenge! Well, I am!!

On to the events for the last month of 1987. We, (your officers) have come up with a new way to end the year and to welcome the new officers at the same time. What we are going to try to pull off is this: We will have our December meeting at the same place and the same time, but with a few changes. First we will have the normal business meeting, (I'll try to cut it short) followed by what were calling "our social night". This will give all of you a chance to talk to the members in our group that can help you with your hardware/software problems. You will also have the needed time to get to know your newly elected officers and say good-bye to your past officers. Now all of that sounds good to me but here is the kicker. We will have both the 8-bit & 16-bit machines there for the purpose of copying the library disks. Plus if you have a good program that you have been telling a friend about, but they haven't seen yet - you can bring that in and show it to them. No, not in a set demo format, to give everyone a break you can show your program in a break type format. You know what that means - no pressure! Plus, and to me this should be great, we'll have munchies there for all to enjoy. I know this is a different sort of meeting, but we wanted to end a great year with something out of the ordinary - and this is it. Hope you enjoy it! Please note weather you do or don't, let us know so we'll know if we should try something like this again in the future.

Now since the December meeting is so close to Christmas, funny how that works, we are also going to have one of the local Atari stores come to the meeting to sell their products for both systems. That way you could pick up a few early Christmas gifts. The store that will be at our December meeting will be Computer Connection from Santa Maria. So if you have been thinking about getting a new program for your system, but were not sure if you would like it, you could see it run up on either of the systems we'll have at this

meeting. Computer Connection has a good selection of software and misc. computer related items for you to check into. So as you can see this should be a great meeting, and I hope to see each of you there.

On to a little business - all of you should know (I hope) that S.M.L.A.C.E & the Atari Federation have gotten together and are going to raffle off a 520 ST system in December. To be exact December 02, 1987 at the S.M.L.A.C.E meeting. All of you should have gotten your tickets to sell at the last meeting, but if you didn't please call Chester Hadley (733-4177) and he'll see that you get a book of tickets. Also if you wish to purchase a ticket, (I am speaking of the out of area members, and the non-Federation readers) please call Chester or any of the other officers listed on the front of this newsletter and we'll see you get as many as you want. This is a fund raiser for both clubs and we need everyone's help to make this work. Plus you could win the ST just in time for Christmas - not bad if you ask me. So get your tickets today!!

So as you can see there are alot of great reasons to come to the next few meetings. Good company, information, new products, raffles, door prizes, and in December - FOOD!! Plus on December 2nd someone will win a NEW 520 ST system!! So come on out and join the fun!!!

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## SECRETARIES REPORT

by: CHESTER HADLEY

The October general membership meeting was held on October 5th at 7:00. Shirl Dellinger opened the meeting by stating that the comments made in the newsletter about the ACENET Fair were her own personal views. Paul Alhart will have a complete review of the fair in the newsletter. Members who worked at the fair were thanked.

A video tape provided by the makers of "word Star" was played and entry forms were filled out by members present. One person from each responding user group will receive a free MICROPRO product.

Other business included: Flyers from vendors at the computer fair were distributed. Shirl discussed the selections available at AT&T Liquidators. They are located at 2640 S. Harbor Blvd. in Santa Ana. The 8-bit DOM had a movie player and 6 movies on side A and assorted utilities on side B. The 16-bit DOM consisted of games. Gary Williams volunteered for the November demo. The December meeting, after a short business meeting, will be a social hour for anyone to copy libraries, show a favorite program to someone or just visit.



Munchies will be provided by the outgoing and incoming officers.

A correction to "D BASIC" has been received. Anyone who has the program and would like it upgraded, contact Shirl.

Steve Ramm brought in the tickets for the ST raffle. Chester Hadley was volunteered to distribute the tickets to our members. Gary Williams sold two books (20 tickets) before the night was over.

As the winner of the HACKERS CHALLENGE, Steve Ramm was presented with a certificate, one years membership to the club, an expired, but redeemable gift certificate from Computer Connection and the balance of assorted prizes. Congratulations Steve and it is about time you joined.

Ballots were passed out, the members present voted and the

votes were counted during the break. The results are:

PRESIDENT- Bob Ribortone.  
VICE PRESIDENT- Charlie Rominger.  
SECRETARY- Chester Hadley.  
TREASURER- Herb Kanner.  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR- Phil Rominger.  
8-BIT LIBRARIAN- Dennis Botts.  
ST LIBRARIAN- Mike Mustaine.

Jim Murphy won the Disk of the Month in the member drawing. Additional winners of the member drawing were Maurice Kilpatrick, Ken Jorgensen, Juan Ruiz, Gary Williams, and Pam Duke. Seng Hang won the raffle and selected the ST Disk Bank.

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## **CC COMPUTER CONNECTION** **Wants YOU to REMEMBER:**

- 1) We are the ONLY outlet in Santa Maria who supports your Atari computer.
- 2) For the month of November, receive 15% off list of any special-order!
- 3) Look for the special drawing to take place in the month of December!!!  
Be sure to stop by to register . . .

# **934-3655**

## DEMO

By: Shirl A. Dellinger

This month is filled with interesting demonstrations. First we have Herb showing us the uses of a Ram Disk in the 800XL. If you don't have a Ram Disk in your computer yet, this will show you why all of us that do, are saying we couldn't live without ours. Plus we have right in our club the person, (Bob Ribortone) that can put in this modification. So have your questions ready.

Next we have Gary showing us the follow-up program to Alternate Reality. This is the Dungeon Disk and proves to be a good game. If you attended the Santa Maria meeting with Phillip Price you already know what a great game Alternate Reality is, so now lets check out the second of the set. This is the one Phillip wanted to demo but ran out of time.

Last but not least we have Paul showing all of us how we should have gotten the answer to the Hacker's Challenge. If you purchased the Challenge, you'll want to see how close you were and if you were doing it correctly. If you didn't purchase the challenge you will want to see this extraordinary program just the same.

I told you this month was filled with demo's! So bring pen & paper for notes, have your questions ready and get set for an exciting meeting!!

The following people are to bring equipment:

Computer & Drive - Herb Kanner

Monitor - Shirl Dellinger

Ram Disk Demo - Herb Kanner

Game Demo - Gary Williams

Hacker's challenge - Paul Alhart

\*Please don't forget these items!\*

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A-T-A-R-I

Answers-Tips-and-Relevant Information

by Paul Alhart

Several people (more than one) have asked me recently about Translators for the XL/XE machines. There are several available ranging from the original Atari Translator Disk to several hardware translators. The one that I use exclusively though is a P/D disk based program called OS800. What sets this translator apart from the Atari Translator is that it is not a Boot file. It can be loaded from DOS or even from a three sector menu program that doesn't use DOS. This means it can be on the same disk that your programs are on and you won't have to swap disks. Another nice feature is that you can do a Warm Start (RESET) without erasing the translated operating system from RAM. This is done by pressing the (START-SELECT-OPTION) keys all at the same time. This allows you to boot another program without having to reload the Translator. Pressing the (RESET) key will take you back to the XL/XE operating system though. OS800 is now in our club disk library. Try it, You'll like it!

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## 8-BIT LIBRARY NEWS!

By: Dennis Botts

Don't miss the meeting this month because we have 2 disks of the month with something for everyone. One of the disks will be loaded front and back with basic games. This is one of the public domain disks that we picked up at the Atari Computer Fair last month. I'm sure that everyone will find something to enjoy on this disk.

The second disk of the month, (DOM), contains TURBO BASIC and documentation to go with it. This is the exciting new Public Domain Basic Interpreter that originated in Europe. The only complaint is that it will only work on the XL or XE series of Atari computers. Turbo Basic is almost too good to be true. It's a must for all XL or XE Atari owners. It offers 42 more commands and 22 more functions than Atari Basic. It also runs 3 times faster than Atari Basic, includes most DOS commands, has advanced graphics and programming functions, and is insensitive to lower case or inverse characters for most commands.

The Turbo Basic disk also includes the English version of the Turbo Compiler. Maurice Kilpatrick has been visiting Lompoc from Tennessee this month and was nice enough to provide the Atari Federation with the English version of the Turbo Compiler. We certainly appreciate it. The compiler will run Atari Basic programs 10-15 times faster and Turbo Basic programs 3-5 times faster. If you don't have Turbo Basic and you're an XE or XL owner then this is the disk for you.

### BASIC GAMES DISK

Side A - ASYLUM - Pacman type game.

OILGAME - You have 15 weeks to discover oil and make more money than your opponent.

VALIANT - Graphics adventure. Don't know too much about this one but it looks like it could be a good one.

MINITURF.OLF - This is the Public Domain program that XLENT's Miniature Golf Construction Set is based on. You use the notched corner of the square to hit your ball with.

CASTLEQU.EST - Go through rooms collecting objects while avoiding being caught.

HANGMAN - Classic word game that we all are familiar with.

BICYCLE - Try to collect people without hitting trucks or puddles of water.

STARVENT - Space game. Try to collect smaller objects without hitting larger objects.

Side B - TRIVIA - Good trivia game.

FORTUNE - This is my favorite on this disk. It is similar to the Wheel of Fortune game. I think a lot of people will like this one.

WARRIOR - A two player arcade shoot'em up type game. Very well done.

DGEN - Data generator for FORTUNE program. Make up your own data files to use with FORTUNE program.

BUNNYHOP - Frogger type game except you have your rabbit try to eat up all of the carrots.

ISLDJMPR - Arcade style game where you try to parachute out of an airplane and land on the island.

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Atari Computer Faire  
Another Point of View

Was it any good? It was great. Was it well attended? It set a new record for any Atari Faire to date. Would I go to another? Yes, where do I get my ticket?

Along with several of you I stayed at the Faire both days and I am glad I did. Saturday brought with it warm weather and a record crowd. Sunday was a little cooler and only about half the crowd showed up. This was when one could really take time to talk to the vendors and see what they had. And I found many interesting things.

The Mega-ST was there as well as the new 80 Column Cartridge for the 8-bit machines. The new XE Game Machine was also there. All these items are now shipping.

Remember all the ads for Virtuoso Software (a music-graphics-animation-modes package) a year or so ago.

Well it is now shipping. Virtosonics Corp. was there and demonstrating the impressive Atari 8-bit version.

One of the high points for me were the talks given in the conference room. Bill Wilkinson of OSS gave an interesting talk on programing the 8-bit Atari.

Niel Harris of Atari talked about where Atari is heading. It may be a shock to you, but I think they really know. Here is a secret. The XE Game Machine is really a 65XE with a detachable keyboard and big pastel function keys. It has built-in BASIC & Missile Command. It is being sold as a game because there is a market for games (1,000,000 2600 VCS machines a year) and because most retail stores won't carry the Atari Computer line (something to do with the past business practices of Warner/Atari).

They will carry the games though. The new game machine also comes with Flight Simulator II and a "Scenery disk" all on a new 256K bank switched game cartridge. Yes this cartridge will work on ANY 8-bit Atari and so will the game's Light Gun. Both will be offered separately at a latter date. The game can support disk drives, printers & modems through it's standard 13-pin I/O connector. Atari is looking not only to sell Game machines, but to increase the base of 8-bit machines and revive the 8-bit software market with this machine.

The Mega-STs are now shipping. The "Blitter" is ready and going into the new machines. It will be offered as an upgrade for older machines but no date has been set.

Let's get back to the main floor at the show. As I said, Sunday was not as crowded, but things were starting to get crazy. While looking at all the hardware & software available at the Logical Choice booth the PA announced "For the next 8 minutes Logical Choice is giving away Miner 2049er

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cartridges". I helped the man get the box of cartridges down off the shelf, got my free cartridge, and looked up to see about 5 million people heading straight towards me at a full run. I never realized a game could get me that "excited". The next PA announcement was my ticket number for the hourly doorprize. I won a printer interface. I really wished they had given ME the Astra double sided double drive from the past hours drawing, but...

I could go on for two more pages but I will spare you. The Faire was terrific. If you missed it you missed a lot. Don't miss the next one. I know I won't.

Also, I want to thank everyone that went down and worked at the Faire. It could never have been such a success without all your help.

#### AND THE WINNER IS...

We have a winner. Yes, The Atari Federation Hackers Challenge has been solved. Steve Ram was the first person to call me with the correct answer; "The Atari Federation brings you more for your Atari, the Best for the Best!". Congratulations Steve. Steve received his award and prizes at the October meeting. At the November meeting I will show everyone how to solve The Challenge. Come congratulate Steve and see for yourself how it's done.

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## New for the 8 bit!

SX-212 1200 baud modem

XEP-80 80 column box with printer interface

Alternate Reality - The Dungeon

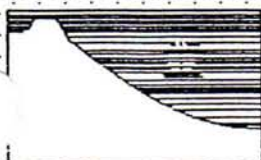
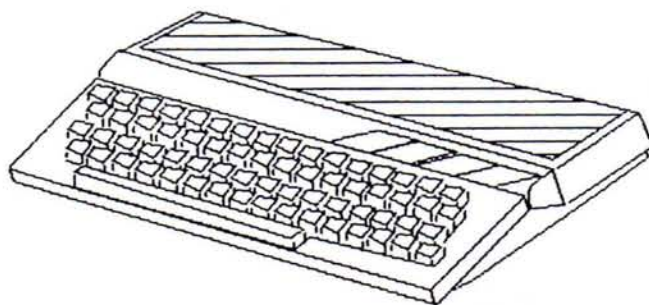
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# THE ATARI FEDERATION

A user group dedicated to Atari computers

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SOAR TO



NEW HEIGHTS!



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A HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING  
("TURKEY DAY")

READ ABOUT OUR  
DECEMBER MEETING  
AND COME EAT  
YOUR HEART OUT!